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# HEARING AID FOR IMPROVING THE HEARING ABILITY OF THE HARD OF HEARING

## 5 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

### Field of the Invention

The invention relates to a hearing aid for improving  
the hearing ability of the hard of hearing, comprising an  
array of microphones, the electrical output signals of which  
10 are fed to at least one transmission path belonging to an ear.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART

A device of this type is known from the article  
entitled "Development of a directional hearing instrument  
15 based on array technology" published in the "Journal of the  
Acoustical Society of America", Vol. 94, Edition 2, Pt. 1,  
pages 785-798, August 1993.

It is generally known that loss of hearing in people  
can be compensated for by means of a hearing aid, in which  
20 amplification of the received sound is used. In environments  
with background noise, for example when several people are  
speaking at once, as is the case at a cocktail party, the  
hearing aid amplifies both the desired speech and the noise,  
as a result of which the ability to hear is not improved.

25 In the abovementioned article the authors describe  
an improvement proposal. The hearing aid disclosed in the  
article consists of an array of, for example, five directional  
microphones, as a result of which it is possible for the